[*Translation*]

Pension to Retired Artists

3789. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pension Ki Dohari Niti Ke Shikar Kalakar" appearing in 'Jansatta' dated July 6, 1991;

(b) whether the Government propose to review its decision of stopping the pension of retired artists;

(c) whether their pension would be released in the near future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the number of such artists whose pensions have been stopped, year-wise and State-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) According to a scheme introduced by the Government in 1982, certain categories of Staff Artists designated as 'Artists' were made eligible for pensionary benefits in terms of that scheme with effect from 6th March, 1982. The Government has not stopped pension of any such 'Artists'. However, on the directions of the Supreme Court in a case challenging the above scheme, the Government constituted a High Power Committee to review the said scheme The report of the High Power Committee has since been received. Action has been initiated on the recommendations.

[*English*]

Telecast of Programmes on Pt. Govind Vallabh Pant and Sardar Patel

3791. SHRI V. N. SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times programmes were telecast on Pt. Govind Vallabh Pant and Sardar Patel on Doordarshan during their centenary year;

(b) the total time involved in telecast of programmes from Doordarshan on Pt. Govind Vallabh Pant and Sardar Patel, separately;

(c) whether the Government propose to telecast any more programmes on Sardar Patel and Pt. Pant on Doordarshan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) During the Centenary Celebration of Pt. Govind Vallabh Pant Doordarshan telecast 15 programmes on its National network for a duration of 6 hours 18 minutes between 10-09-87 and 15-12-88. The Centenary of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel was celebrated during 1974-75. Details of the programmes telecast during that period are not readily available. However, a special programme on the life and works of Sardar Patel was telecast on 12-07-1991 in commemoration of conferment of Bharat Ratna on him posthumously. A programme on Sardar Patel's Birth Anniversary on 31-10-91 is envisaged to be telecast in the National network programme.

(c) and (d) The telecasting of programmes on Pt. Govind Vallabh Pant and Sardar Patel in future would depend on programme requirements.

Haldia DAP unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd.

3792. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in 'Economic Times' dated July 20, 1991 under the caption "PIB rejects HFC plan for Haldia DAP Unit";

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether 1700 workers remained without work for over half a decade in the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation, Haldia, DAP unit;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the estimated loss suffered in this regard; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken against the officials responsible for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has not rejected the proposal to set up a DAP plant at Haldia.

(c) and (d) Commissioning activities of Haldia project of HFC (there is no DAP unit of HFC at Haldia) had to be stopped from October, 1986 due to frequent equipment breakdowns. Certain facilities such as ammonia storage, water services etc. are under operation apart from normal preservation and maintenance. For this, a part of the workforce is being utilised.

(e) About Rs. 18.25 crores is being incurred annually as standing charges for salary of staff and maintenance and preservation of the plant.

(f) Since the problems of Haldia plant are due to factors beyond the control of any individual or group of individuals, no official can be held responsible for the same.

Drinking Water Supply Schemes of Rajasthan

3793. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any drinking water supply schemes submitted by the Rajasthan Government are pending for clearance since long; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) and (b) The present status of various drinking water supply schemes received from the State Govt. of Rajasthan is as under:—

Sl. No.	*Project Proposal*	*Date*	*Present Status*
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	Project for drinking water supply for urban and rural areas in Nagaur district at an estimated cost of Rs. 107.0 crores.	25-3-91	The rural component of the project is under technical scrutiny.
2	Drinking Water Supply project through 12 regional water supply schemes covering 56 villages in Dholpur district at an estimated cost of Rs. 331.82 lakhs.	30-6-91	The project was forwarded to Ministry of Finance (Deptt. of Economic Affairs) for posing to Swedish Embassy for bilateral assistance.